

# VETERANS JOURNAL



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Winter 2004 Issue

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The information in this journal is being provided to make the veteran community aware of some current events, activities and veterans issues that are of mutual concern. From time to time, we will include some relevant information important enough to be repeated to insure that veterans and their families are aware of the full range of benefits and entitlements available to them.



## A United States Marine's Christmas Poem

*T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE  
CHRISTMAS,  
HE LIVED ALL ALONE,  
IN A ONE BEDROOM HOUSE  
MADE OF PLASTER AND  
STONE.*

*I HAD COME DOWN THE  
CHIMNEY  
WITH PRESENTS TO GIVE,  
AND TO SEE JUST WHO  
IN THIS HOME DID LIVE.*

*LOOKED ALL ABOUT,  
A STRANGE SIGHT I DID*

*SEE,  
NO TINSEL, NO PRESENTS,  
NOT EVEN A TREE.*

*NO STOCKING BY MANTLE,  
JUST BOOTS FILLED WITH  
SAND,  
ON THE WALL HUNG  
PICTURES  
OF FAR DISTANT LANDS.*

*WITH MEDALS AND  
BADGES,  
AWARDS OF ALL KINDS,  
A SOBER THOUGHT  
CAME THROUGH MY MIND.*

*FOR THIS HOUSE WAS  
DIFFERENT,  
IT WAS DARK AND DREARY,  
I FOUND THE HOME OF A  
SOLDIER,  
ONCE I COULD SEE  
CLEARLY.*

*THE SOLDIER LAY  
SLEEPING,  
SILENT, ALONE,  
CURLED UP ON THE FLOOR  
IN THIS ONE BEDROOM  
HOME.*

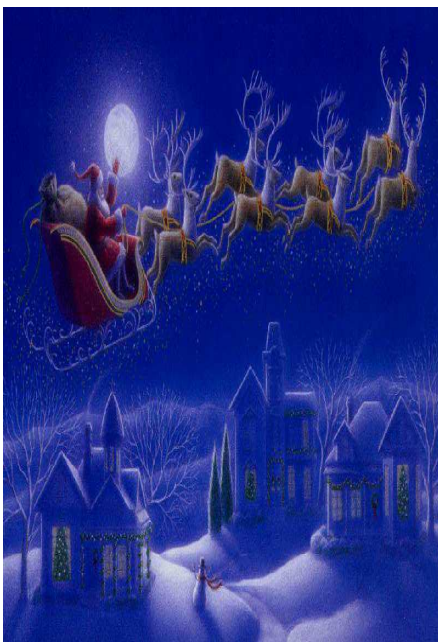
*THE FACE WAS SO GENTLE,  
THE ROOM IN SUCH  
DISORDER,  
NOT HOW I PICTURED  
A UNITED STATES  
SOLDIER.*

*WAS THIS THE HERO  
OF WHOM I'D JUST READ?  
CURLED UP ON A PONCHO,  
THE FLOOR FOR A BED?*

*I REALIZED THE FAMILIES  
THAT I SAW THIS NIGHT,  
OWED THEIR LIVES TO  
THESE SOLDIERS  
WHO WERE WILLING TO  
FIGHT.*

*SOON ROUND THE WORLD,  
THE CHILDREN WOULD  
PLAY,  
AND GROWNUPS WOULD  
CELEBRATE  
A BRIGHT CHRISTMAS DAY.*

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**THEY ALL ENJOYED  
FREEDOM  
EACH MONTH OF THE  
YEAR,  
BECAUSE OF THE  
SOLDIERS,  
LIKE THE ONE LYING  
HERE.**

**I COULDN'T HELP WONDER  
HOW MANY LAY ALONE,  
ON A COLD CHRISTMAS  
EVE  
IN A LAND FAR FROM  
HOME.**

**THE VERY THOUGHT  
BROUGHT A TEAR TO MY  
EYE,  
I DROPPED TO MY KNEES  
AND STARTED TO CRY.**

**THE SOLDIER AWAKENED  
AND I HEARD A ROUGH  
VOICE,  
"SANTA DON'T CRY,  
THIS LIFE IS MY CHOICE;**

**I FIGHT FOR FREEDOM,  
I DON'T ASK FOR MORE,  
MY LIFE IS MY GOD,  
MY COUNTRY, MY CORPS."**

**THE SOLDIER ROLLED  
OVER  
AND SOON DRIFTED TO**

**SLEEP,  
I COULDN'T CONTROL IT,  
I CONTINUED TO WEEP.**

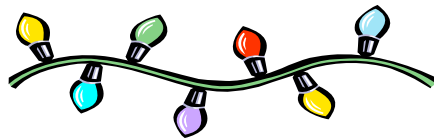
**I KEPT WATCH FOR HOURS,  
SO SILENT AND STILL  
AND WE BOTH SHIVERED  
FROM THE COLD NIGHT'S  
CHILL.**

**I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE  
ON THAT COLD, DARK,  
NIGHT,  
THIS GUARDIAN OF HONOR  
SO WILLING TO FIGHT.**

**THEN THE SOLDIER  
ROLLED OVER,  
WITH A VOICE SOFT AND  
PURE,  
WHISPERED, "CARRY ON  
SANTA,  
IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY, ALL  
IS SECURE."**

**ONE LOOK AT MY WATCH,  
AND I KNEW HE WAS  
RIGHT.  
"MERRY CHRISTMAS MY  
FRIEND,  
AND TO ALL A GOOD  
NIGHT."**

This poem was written by a  
Marine stationed in Okinawa  
Japan. .



## **Congratulations Nelson Waldrop**

Mr. Nelson Waldrop started working at the Veterans Service Commission in 1984, after finishing a twenty year military career. He was hired as a financial; investigator and was cross trained in all the operational areas of the Veterans Service Commission. He has served under four different Executive Directors over the past twenty-one years. He was instrumental in developing a tracking system in excel that maintained 100% accountability of all funds expended in financial assistance. He later became the financial supervisor and had five investigators under him. His legacy to the Veterans Service Commission is the development and implementation of a software system for financial assistance. The system is the most technological advanced system used within the state of Ohio for processing financial assistance claims and tracking the entire financial process. Over the past couple of years he has had a dual position as Assistant Executive Director/Financial Supervisor. He assisted the director with personnel and budgets issues and was also instrumental in planning and designing new office space. Mr. Waldrop has left an indelible mark on this agency over the past twenty-one years. We wish him well on his retirement and from the Veterans Service Commission Staff and the veterans of Franklin County we thank you for your twenty-one years of dedicated service.

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## Widow joins Army, saves self

By Shawn Ledington  
From: Turret News  
Thursday, October 7, 2004

Many times in her 16-month marriage to Spc. Nicholas Zangara, Mell Zangara would climb into his military uniform and prance around their apartment in York, Pa., as though she was on a catwalk.

"Don't I look hot, baby?" she'd ask him. "Wouldn't you like to see me come home to you in this?"

Nicky would give her that look, the one that told her to give him a break.

"You're not joining the Army," he'd say.

### NEW BEGINNINGS

Before marrying Nicky in March 2003, Mell was at rock bottom. Out of high school, but not going to college, she filled her days with alcohol and partying while bouncing from job to job.

She got to know Nicky through an Internet chat room. He inspired her to change her life.

"If I want a chance with him, I'm going to have to change," she decided.

She wanted to be a better person for him. And she could tell he became a better person for her, too. He was promoted; his personality became softer, nicer.

She and 21-year-old Nicky spent many hours on the phone and, after their first meeting, married. She moved to Germany, where he was stationed, to be with him.

Mell soon began talking about joining the Army as her own career opportunity. She even completed the written and physical tests and was planning to become a parachute rigger so she could learn to jump out of airplanes.

Nicky, however, felt their relationship would suffer from the potential time apart with deployments and training.

Then in February, he was sent to Iraq, taking his uniforms with him.

In July, he was killed by a roadside bomb.

Suddenly, at 20 years old, Mell was a widow.

But she never lost interest in putting on her own military uniform.

### DEALING WITH GRIEF

In the last two months, Mell has been tearing herself up inside over Nicky's death. The grief caused her to shed 25 pounds.

She longs to feel the camouflage fabric of his Army uniform next to her skin again.

Some days are worse than others. She was having a really bad "Nicholas Day," in early September.

She wasn't angry, just intensely sad- a hard to explain feeling, a feeling only another war widow might understand.

In the mood, she drove to the Army recruiter's office and signed on the dotted line-the final step she needed to enlist.

Mell's parents, whom she lives with in Jackson Township and calls her best friends, weren't thrilled with the idea that their daughter enlisted.

She knew they wouldn't be, so she didn't tell them until things were said and done.

Now, reluctantly, they are happy for her and proud.

They just hope she isn't sent to Iraq.

"Like any parent wants their child sent to Iraq right now," Mell said.

### TOUGH TIMES STILL AHEAD

Sept. 20, when Nicky's belongings arrived from Iraq, became another one of those bad days. Letters, cards, photos, and other special love notes she sent him since February, when he was deployed, were stacked and organized among the rubble of compact discs, DVDs, Game Boy games, and other toys.

Everything but his uniform was inside, and she's not sure why.

In the weeks and months to come, she knows she'll still have bad Nicky days.

She'll suffer through them. She must.

She'll proudly climb into that Army combat uniform every day.

She'll stand at attention in an Army formation. She'll march, left, right, left, right.

She'll run hard, climb fast, and crawl on the gritty ground.

She'll tuck and fold the sheets of her bed, dress orderly in uniform, and follow superiors' strict barking orders.

And as every bead of sweat drips down her neck and with every heavy step she takes in those nine weeks of basic training, she will be motivated like few others in her class.

She'll be energized by Nicky, who took similar steps when he joined the Army in March 2001. She'll envision how he squeezed his arm muscles to finish a final push up, breathed heavily while jumping obstacles, and skillfully maneuvered climbing walls.

And, if she ends up in Iraq, she'll find out just how life must have been for him in the weeks leading up to the day when a roadside bomb blew up the truck he was driving and killed him instantly.

### FILLING MP RANKS

When she signed up at the recruiter's office, she chose to spend her four-year enlistment in the military police, which she says is closet thing to being on the front lines for a woman.

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She doesn't want to be a nurse, a caretaker, or stuck in some office filing papers.

She prefers to be up close to the enemy, the one that took her husband's life.

"I just want to go fight," she said.

She wants to finish what Nicky started.

It's not about revenge, she said. It's about finding out what her husband went through. Mell figures if her husband could handle war, so can she.

But Mell isn't trying to act tough.

She admits she's scared to death and that there will be times when she regrets the decision she's made.

But, she said, she has Nicky's presence with her daily, a feeling she said will give her the extra "umph" she'll need to survive boot camp and potentially, war.

"I know he's going to take care of me," she said. "He won't let anything happen to me."

Army Spc. Nicholas "Nicky" Zangara, 21, was killed July 24 when a roadside bomb set by Iraqis blew up near his Humvee in Tikrit. A soldier in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, he was the only soldier killed in the attack. He was from the Philadelphia area.



## STRESS LEVELS HIGH AMONG RETURNING TROOPS

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, - Military deployments and other activities that keep service members away from home are upping stress levels among men and women in uniform, a new Defense Dept. survey reveals.

The 2002 Survey of Health Related Behaviors among Military Personnel, released March 8,

showed that about one-third of the service members who responded to the confidential survey feel stressed-out because of their work. Of these, 19% cited deployments and family separations as top stress sources.

In addition, more than 40% of the military women surveyed reported being under a "great deal" or "fairly large amount" of stress related to being a woman in the military.

The survey incorporated anonymous responses from 12,500 active-duty service members at 30 military installations. Respondents were selected randomly to provide a cross section of men and women in all pay grades of the active force worldwide, officials said.

The survey revealed that 85% of those questioned deal with their stress in positive ways. Many said they talk with others to get advice about issues troubling them, play sports or engage in a hobby. About half the men and 70 percent of the women said they pray to help them cope.

However, other respondent said they sometimes turn to less unhealthful outlets. 40% of the men and about half of the women use food and more than 25% use alcohol or cigarettes as a way of coping.

This year's survey showed the first increase in smoking service members in the last 20 years. One-third of the respondents said they smoke cigarettes, compared to 29.9% during the last survey, conducted in 1998. Officials said the rate is comparable to that among civilians.

Heavy drinking was also up among service members, from 15.4% in 1998 to 18.1% in 2002. Officials defined heavy drinking as consuming five or more drinks per occasion at least once a week.

Younger service members reported the heaviest alcohol use: 27% of those ages 18 to 25 acknowledged heavy alcohol use, almost double the rate among civilians in the same age group.

The survey revealed that illegal drug use among service member has remained significantly lower than in the general population, officials said. Just 3% of the survey respondents said they had used illegal drugs within the past 30 days. This compares to the 12% in the general population.

Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of Defense Department is concerned about the increases in smoking and heavy alcohol use among its members but not necessarily surprised.

"These findings, along with indicators of stress and other similar mental health indicators obtained in the survey, are not entirely surprising given the military's role in worldwide events throughout the past two years," he said.

Winkenwerder noted new programs introduced since the survey was conducted or to be introduced soon are designed to address some red flags raised. "Military leaders and the military health system are committed to improve healthy behaviors and reduce avoidable stress," he said.

Despite reporting elevated stress levels, the survey revealed that most service members are happy with their work. An estimated 65% of the respondents said they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" overall with their current work assignment. Airmen reported the highest satisfaction level, 72%, and soldiers the lowest, 60.9 %.



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*I*  
*Am the Flag of the  
Of America*

*I am the flag of  
the United States of  
America.  
My name is Old Glory.  
I fly atop the  
world's tallest  
buildings.  
I stand watch in  
America's halls of  
justice.  
I fly majestically over  
institutions of learning.  
I stand guard with  
power in the world.  
Look up and see me.  
stand for peace, honor,  
truth and justice.  
I stand for freedom.  
I am confident.  
I am arrogant.  
I am proud.  
When I am flown with  
my fellow banners,  
My head is a little  
higher,  
My colors a little truer.  
I bow to no one!  
I am recognized all over  
the world.  
I am worshipped - I am*

*saluted.  
I am loved - I am  
revered.  
I am respected - and I  
am feared.  
I have fought in  
every battle of every  
war for more then 200  
years. I was flown at  
Valley  
Forge, Gettysburg,  
Shiloh and Appomattox.  
I was there at San Juan  
Hill, the trenches of  
France,  
in the Argonne Forest,  
Anzio, Rome and the  
beaches of Normandy.  
Guam, Okinawa, Korea  
and KheSan, Saigon,  
Vietnam know me.  
I'm presently in the  
mountains of  
Afganistan and the hot  
and dusty deserts of  
Iraq and wherever  
freedom is needed.  
I led my troops, I was  
dirty, battle worn and  
tired,  
But my soldiers  
cheered me and I was  
proud.  
I have been burned,  
torn and trampled on  
the streets of countries  
I have helped set free.  
It does not hurt for I  
am invincible.  
I have been soiled  
upon, burned, torn and  
trampled in the  
streets of my country.  
And when it's done by  
those Whom I've served*

*in battle - it hurts.  
But I shall overcome -  
for I am strong.  
I have slipped the  
bonds of Earth and  
stood watch over the  
uncharted frontiers of  
space from my vantage  
point on the moon.  
I have borne silent  
witness to all of  
America's finest hours.  
But my finest hours are  
yet to come.  
When I am torn into  
strips and used as  
bandages for my  
wounded comrades on  
the battlefield,  
When I am flown at half-  
mast to honor my  
soldier,  
Or when I lie in the  
trembling arms of a  
grieving parent  
at the grave of their  
fallen son or daughter,*

*I am proud*





## **Military Funeral Honors "Honoring Those Who Served"**

The Department of Defense (DOD) is responsible for providing military funeral honors. "Honoring Those Who Served" is the title of the DOD program for providing dignified military funeral honors to veterans who have defended our nation.

Upon the family's request, Public Law 106-65 requires that every eligible veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony, to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps. The law defines a military funeral honors detail as consisting of two or more uniformed military persons, with at least one being a member of the veteran's parent service of the armed forces. The DOD program calls for funeral home directors to request military funeral honors on behalf of the veterans' family. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration cemetery staff can also assist with arranging military funeral honors at VA national cemeteries. Veterans organizations may assist in providing military funeral honors. When military funeral honors at a national cemetery are desired, they are arranged prior to the committal service by the funeral home.

The Department of Defense began the implementation plan for

providing military funeral honors for eligible veterans as enacted in Section 578 of Public Law 106-65 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2000 on Jan. 1, 2000.

Questions or comments concerning the DOD military funeral honors program may be sent to the address listed below. The military funeral honors Web site is located at

[www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil](http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil)

Department of Defense  
Directorate for Public Inquiry and Analysis  
Room 3A750, The Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1400



## **Diabetes Type 2 Straight Talk**

From the Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers

### **What is Agent Orange?**

Agent Orange is an herbicide made from a combination of two compounds: 2, 4-D and 2, 4, 5-T which are chlorinated phenoxy acids. The most dangerous element of Agent Orange is an impurity present in the 2, 4, 5-T. That impurity is known chemically as 2, 3, 7, 8-tetrachloro-dibenz-p-dioxin, or more commonly, dioxin.

Agent Orange, so named because it was shipped in orange-striped 55-gallon drums, was sprayed from fixed and rotary wing aircraft. Agent Orange was also sprayed from trucks and back packs to defoliate base perimeters, landing zones and other areas.

Between 1962 and 1971, the United States sprayed more than 10.6 million gallons of herbicide in Southeast Asia in order to deprive the enemy forces of ground cover provided by dense jungles and foliage. This massive defoliation project was called "Operation Ranch Hand," and was successful in defoliating an area about the size of Massachusetts.

### **EXPOSURE TO AGENT ORANGE**

Three million veterans served in Southeast Asia. No one knows for sure how many veterans were exposed to Agent Orange, but it is estimated that as many as 2.4 million Americans were in Vietnam during "Operation Ranch Hand." Some of these personnel were in areas during and immediately after they were sprayed, while others actually handled Agent Orange and did the spraying. It may never be known how many people were exposed to Agent Orange due to incomplete records, but VA presumes all veterans who served in the Vietnam Theatre of Operations to have had such exposure.

### **PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS**

Veterans concerned about their possible exposure to Agent Orange can obtain a comprehensive Agent Orange examination at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center nearest them. While the examination will not determine if a veteran has been exposed to Agent Orange, it will assess the current health of the veteran. If any problems are found, the veteran will be notified to seek immediate medical care.

### **RESEARCH**

Ongoing research by the government and private agencies continues to determine the effects of exposure to herbicides and developments will be used to determine possible future additions of disabilities that may be presumed to be a result of exposure to "certain herbicide agents."



## DISABILITIES FROM EXPOSURE TO AGENT ORANGE

It is important to remember that exposure to Agent Orange while serving in Southeast Asia is not a disability in itself. In order to make application for compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, a veteran must have one of the disabilities which have been determined to be associated with exposure to herbicide agents for any disability the veteran believes is service-connected.

Agent Orange Helpline:  
1-800-749-8387

## DIABETES OVERVIEW

Diabetes is a disease in which the body cannot regulate the amount of sugar (glucose) in the blood. Glucose in the blood gives quick energy – the kind you need when you walk briskly, run for a bus, ride your bike, or take an aerobic class.

Glucose in the blood is produced by the liver from the foods you eat. In a healthy person, the blood glucose level is regulated by a hormone called insulin. Insulin is produced by the pancreas, a small organ near the stomach that also secretes important enzymes that help in the digestion of food. Insulin allows glucose to move from the blood into cells, where it is used for fuel.

People with diabetes either don't produce enough insulin (type 1 diabetes) or cannot use insulin properly (type 2 diabetes), or both.

In diabetes, glucose in the blood cannot move into cells, and stays in the blood. This not only harms the cells that need the glucose for fuel, but also harms certain organs and tissues exposed to the high glucose levels.

Diabetes is a silent and deadly disease which currently afflicts over 17 millions people in the United States...and more than 150 million people worldwide. It is an epidemic which is rapidly becoming critical.

While an estimated 11.1 million people have been diagnosed, unfortunately 5.9 million are unaware they have the disease.

Complications of diabetes include:

Heart Disease

Stroke

High Blood Pressure

Blindness

Kidney Disease

Nervous System Damage

Amputation

Gum Disease

Pregnancy Risks

Diabetes increases your risk of:

A heart attack or stroke.

Impaired vision and blindness.

Decreased circulation.

Foot problems and amputations.

Nervous system problems.

Kidney disease.

Sexual problems.

Complications during pregnancy.

## Q & A

Q: How do I know if I was exposed to Agent Orange?

A: You may never know for sure if you were actually exposed. Records of spray missions and troop movements in those areas are incomplete. If you served in Southeast Asia between 1962 and 1971, you may have been.

Q: I don't have any of the listed diseases at this time and I seem to be in pretty good health, but I still worry. What should I do?

A: You could have an Agent Orange exam to determine your current health. You are added to the Agent Orange Registry which will be used

for future contact, if necessary, based on new discoveries.

Q: I've been diagnosed with a cancer that's not on the list of "Agent Orange disabilities". What can I do?

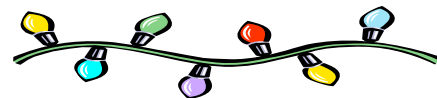
A: You are entitled to apply for compensation for any condition that you feel may be related to your military service. File a claim and allow the Department of Veterans Affairs to make a determination in the matter. It is also possible that further conditions/diseases may be added to the list of presumed diseases in the future.

Q: I'm not a veteran, but my spouse was. He died of cancer of the lungs. Is there anything I can do?

A: Yes. File a claim for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), payable based on a veteran's death from service-connected causes or, in certain circumstances, when the veteran died while 100% service-connected disabled. VA will determine if your spouse's death was related to military service and you may be entitled to monthly compensation and other benefits based on such a service-connect death.

Q: My child was born with Spina Bifida. Is there any connection between Agent Orange and this?

A: Based on a March, 1996 National Academy of Science Institute of Medicine's report, there is suggestive evidence showing and association between veterans' Agent Orange exposure and spina bifida in their children. The natural child of the veteran must have been conceived and born after service in Vietnam. Compensation payments to the child may be possible based on current legislation. Children of female Vietnam veterans, born with certain birth defects, may also qualify for compensation.



# VA Expands Outreach to Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is expanding its efforts to reach veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to make sure that they are aware of the many benefits they have earned.

On May 10, 2004, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi began sending a personal letter to more than 150,000 veterans of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom who have recently separated from the military, to thank them for their service and to remind them of their eligibility for VA health care and other benefits.

"I want these men and women to know that we are grateful for their service to our country," Principi said.

"Those who served in Afghanistan, Iraq and other places around the world have risked their lives to make America more secure. One of the ways the nation shows its gratitude is by ensuring veterans receive the benefits they deserve." Principi's letter includes brochures, telephone numbers, and links to Web pages at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov), that contain more details about VA benefits, including an opportunity to apply for benefits online.

As Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom veterans continue to leave the active duty military, VA will mail additional letters each month from the Secretary.

VA also regularly mails information packets to all service members separating from the military to remind them of eligibility for basic VA benefits, such as VA-guaranteed home loans and education benefits.

In addition, there are provisions in these programs for reservists and National Guard

members. More information about all VA benefits can be found at VA's Web site, at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

Additional outreach to those recently deployed to combat theaters also alerts them to special eligibility that increases their access to health care for two years after separation from the military for illnesses and injuries that may be the result of military service. For those medical problems, VA waives co-payments for inpatient and outpatient care.

VA focuses special attention on those with service related disabilities. The department's goal is a seamless transition from military to VA services, with claims for financial benefits receiving expedited processing. For the seriously wounded, VA has counselors working at the bedsides of patients in military hospitals with the largest numbers of casualties to begin benefit applications before they leave the military.

In addition, VA social service personnel work at these military facilities to plan health care coordination as service members move from military to VA care. This helps ensure a smooth transition to a VA hospital or clinic near the veteran's intended residence for continuity of medical care.

In partnership with state and local government benefits, counselors and veterans service organization representatives, VA annually briefs about 200,000 service members around the world before discharge to help prepare them for civilian transition and VA benefits. It operates benefits offices at 133 military installations to help service members with conditions arising during service preparation to begin receiving VA compensation promptly after discharge. "VA has learned many lessons since the Gulf War in 1991 and other conflicts, which will ensure that this newest generation of war veterans receives the health care and assistance they deserve when they return to civilian life," said Principi.



## Rumor About Destroying Military Records Is False

There is a false rumor circulating through the veteran's community that the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) intends to scan military records to create digital files and then destroy the original documents. According to one version of this rumor, veterans and their families are being told that they must request their original Official Military Personnel Files before they are destroyed.

The NPRC has said it is expanding the use of information technology for request and record tracking, but does not intend to destroy paper Official Military Personnel Files. The purpose of electronic scanning is to reduce the handling of fragile records during the reference process or to reduce the time necessary to locate veterans' files. It is the NPRC's responsibility to preserve and protect the Official Military Personnel Files, as they are permanently valuable records documenting the essential evidence of military service for the veterans of our nation.





## Ohio Veterans Plaza

The Ohio Veterans Plaza is located adjacent to the east facade of the Senate Building at the Ohio Statehouse in downtown Columbus. It is a public recognition of the men and women from Ohio who served, and sometimes gave their lives, in the military service of our country. This expression honors their service in time of war or peace.

As restoration architect of the Capitol, Schooley Caldwell Association was asked by the State of Ohio to work with a committee representing various veterans groups from around the State to create a dignified, permanent memorial with significant symbolic value. Funding for the Plaza was provided from the Statehouse Restoration project budget, the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board, and the Capitol Square Renovation Foundation.

Design components of the Plaza include two curved limestone walls, 10 feet high and 40 feet long, inscribed with actual correspondence sent home to family, friends and loved ones by military personnel involved in conflicts. Other features include small fountains, benches, plaques depicting the seals of the five branches of the armed services, inscribed names of all 88 Ohio counties with accompanying flag holders for ceremonial purposes, and a large, grassy lawn to commemorate the traditional

parade ground atmosphere of the military encampment.

The Plaza also serves as a major entrance to the Capitol complex, used by all tour and school groups. The area features a drop-off space for buses and is the primary means of access for people with disabilities. The entry steps (there are also ramped walkways) double as a podium for ceremonies, and there are provisions for portable sound systems as well as a connection to the Statehouse television production studio and communications system.

The Plaza and its design features not only commemorate the service of all veterans but serve as an appropriate educational vehicle for the many visitors and students who pass the Statehouse grounds every day.



## Friendly Resourceful Enthusiastic Dependable

F.R.E.D. Award Announcement:

This award represents outstanding individual effort by a staff member recommended by clients and co-workers on a quarterly basis. The last employee awarded was Angela Harris, Administrative Clerk.

Past employees nominated for this award were:

Ann Krogman Miller-  
Benefits Specialist

Joyce Lilly- Secretary for  
the Service Officers

John Warrix- Financial  
Supervisor.



**Happy Holiday's  
From Franklin  
County Veteran's  
Service Commission**

FRANKLIN COUNTY  
VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION  
250 W BROAD ST  
COLUMBUS OH 43215-2787

